Marvel

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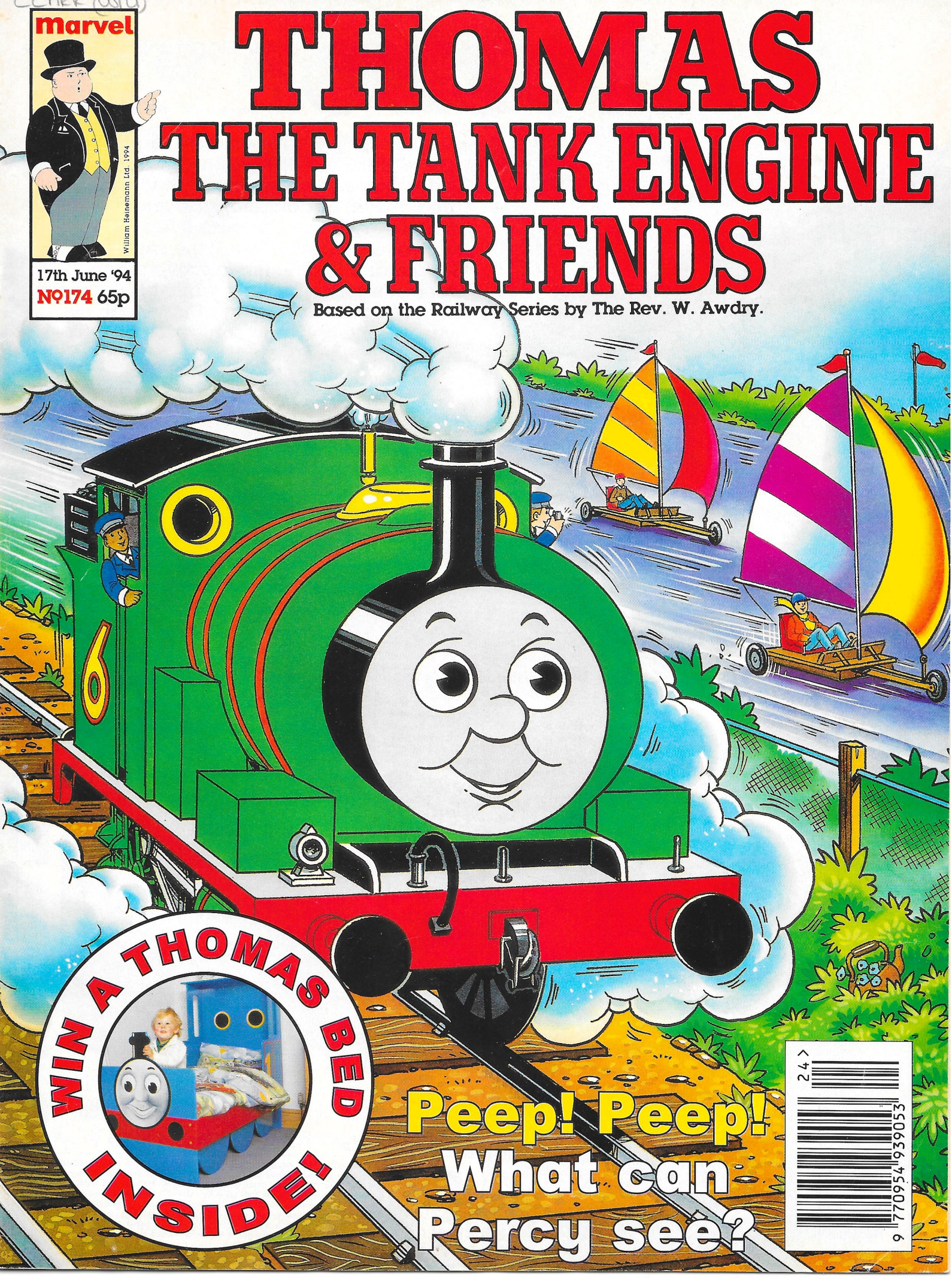
THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

Based on the Railway Series by The Rev. W. Awdry.



WIN A THOMAS BED INSIDE!

Peep! Peep! What can Percy see?

9 770954 939053 24

NOTICEBOARD

Peep! Peep! We have enjoyed reading many great stories from the Island of Sodor. Some of the most popular stories are unusual or dangerous adventures. This is very much the case in our two stories in this issue. Percy the small Saddletank Engine has discovered an interesting new pastime while his good friend Thomas is having trouble with his wheels, and only one of his friends can save him! *Peep! Peep!*

How to obtain your Fat Controller's Card!

If you would like to receive your very own, splendid **Fat Controller's Card**, send one red, yellow and blue token together with your details listed below (details need only be listed on any one of the 3 coloured tokens when applying for this offer) plus a stamped addressed envelope to: **The Fat Controller's Card Offer, Marvel Comics Ltd, 13/15 Arundel Street, London WC2.**

Name .....

Address .....

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Age .....

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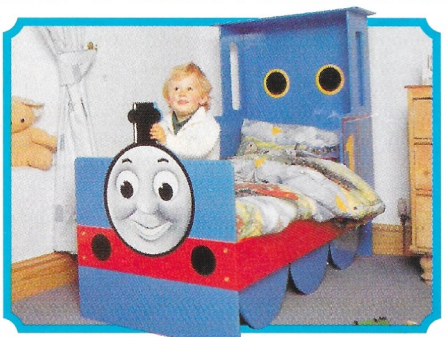
THOMAS TOKEN

THIS ISSUE'S COMPETITION!

Turn to page 7 for another superb chance to win some exciting Thomas Bedroom furniture, courtesy of



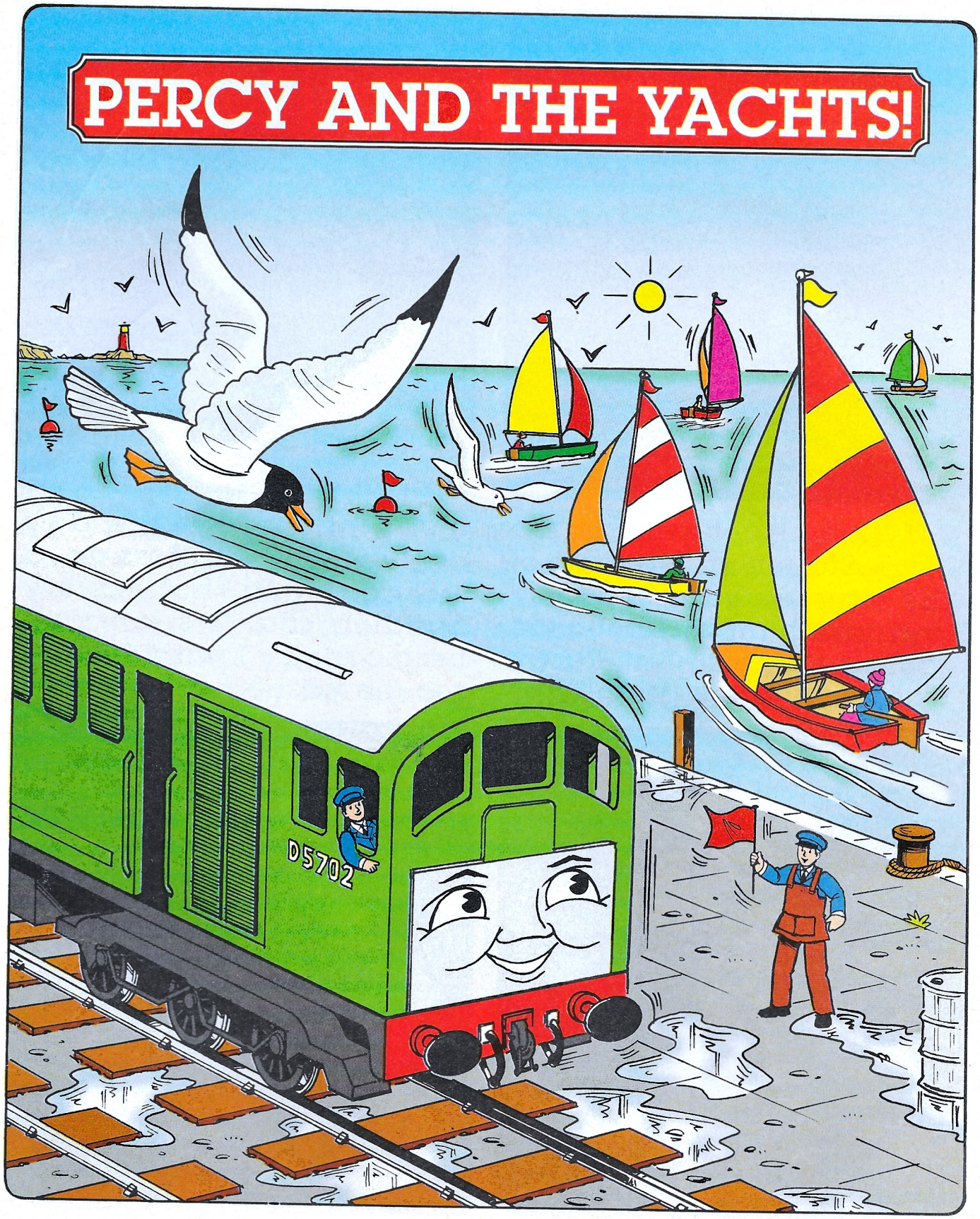
Joshua Jones Ltd

You can also make your very own Thomas Jigsaw Puzzle on pages 14 & 15!

ABC CONSUMER PRESS

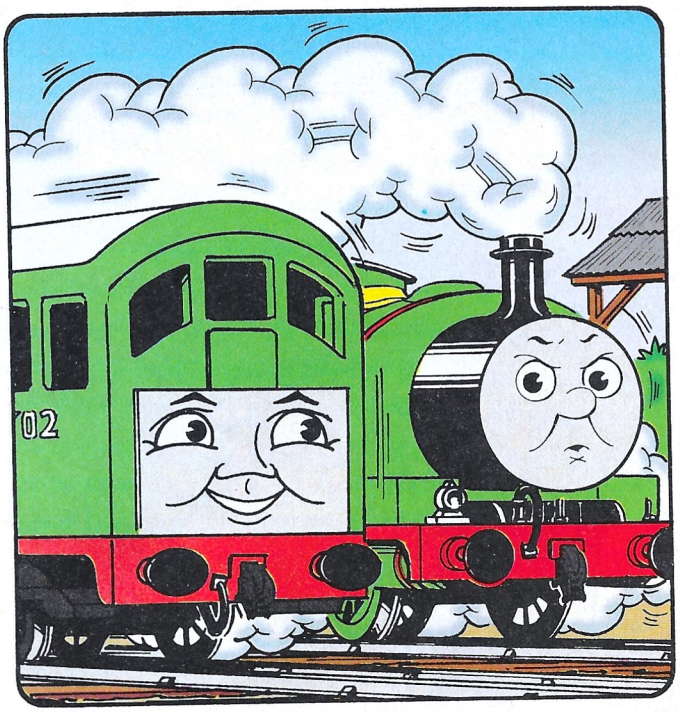
THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS is published fortnightly by **MARVEL COMICS LTD.** Jim Galton, Chairman, Vincent Conran, Managing Director, Paul Neary, Editorial Director, Office of Publication: 13/15 Arundel Street, London WC2 3DX. All **THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS** material copyright © William Heinemann Limited. All television and merchandise rights licensed by William Heinemann Limited to Britt Allcroft (THOMAS) Ltd exclusively worldwide. All rights reserved. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons and/or institutions in this publication with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. Printed in the UK. Distributed by IPC Marketforce, Independent Publishers Group, King's Reach Tower, Stamford Street, London SE 9LS. Tel. 071 261 6061 ISSN 0954-9390.

PERCY AND THE YACHTS!

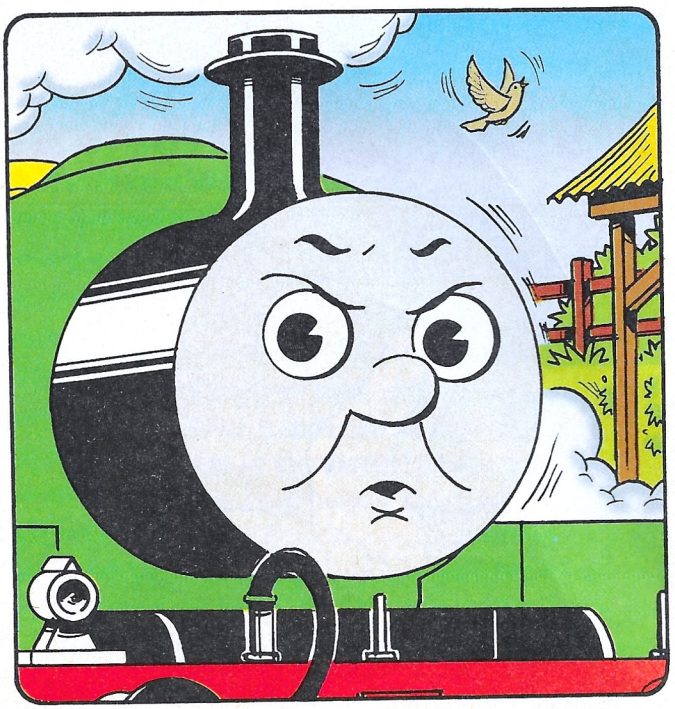


1. It was a beautiful, sunny day on the Island of Sodor. While Boco shunted trucks in the Big Harbour yard, he enjoyed watching all the yachts sailing by.

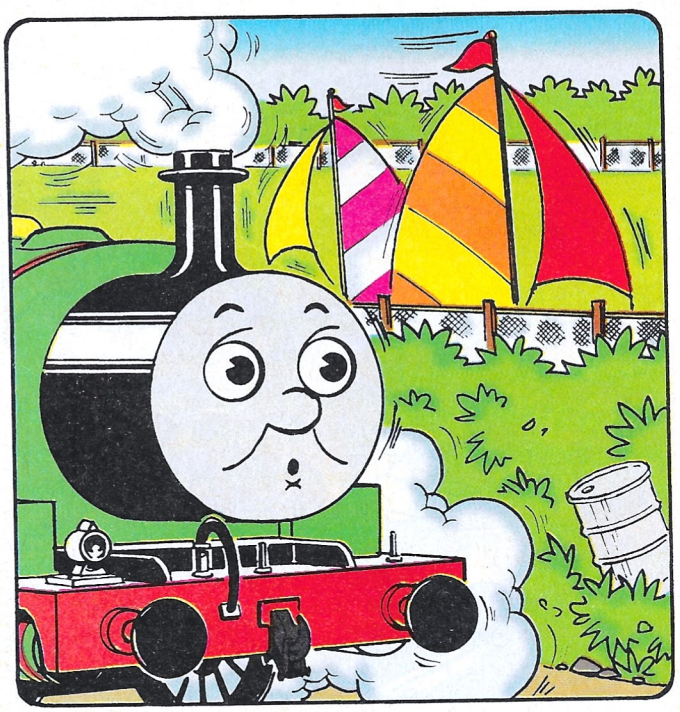
2. They raced each other over the sparkling sea with their big, colourful, wind-filled sails. "Just look at them go!" Boco called to his driver.



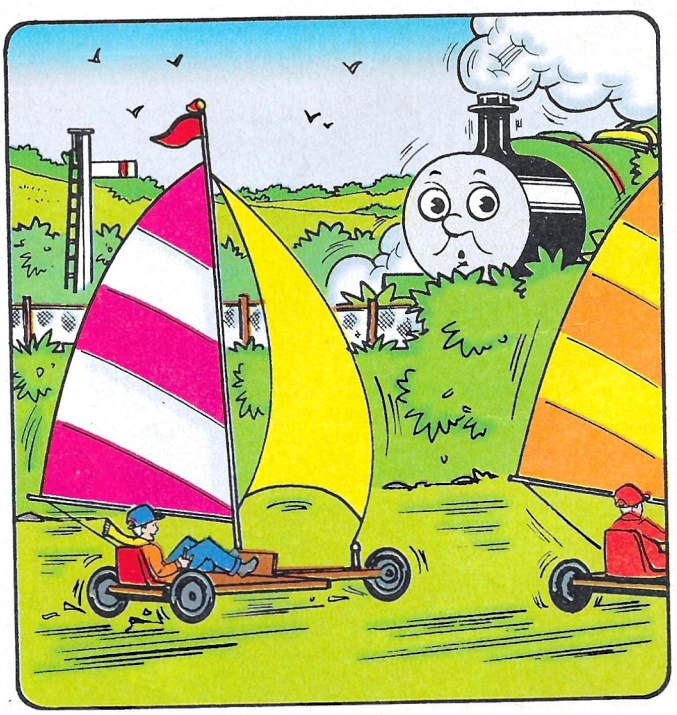
3. When he returned to the Main Station at the end of the day, Boco met Percy and told him all about the racing yachts. But Percy was feeling very grumpy.



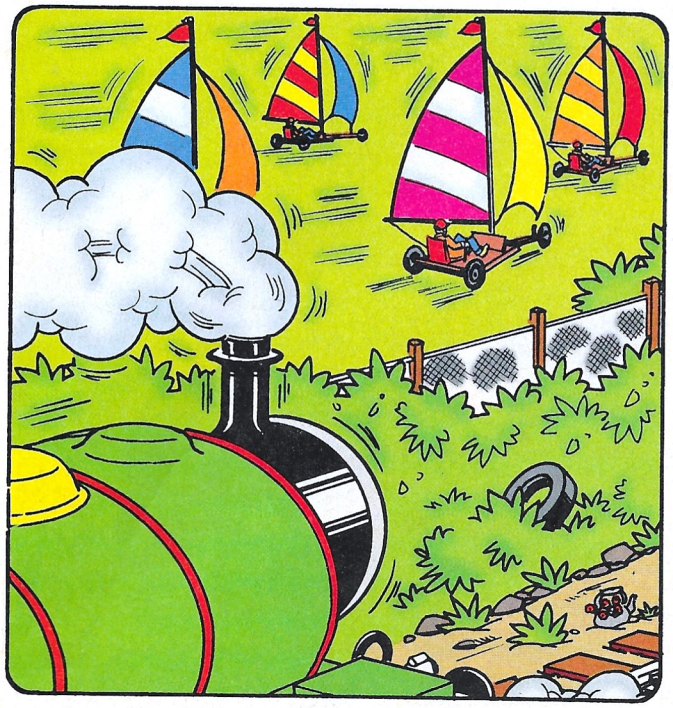
4. He had spent the day delivering supplies to a siding by a hot, dusty building site. "It's not fair!" he moaned. "I wish I could see the yachts!"



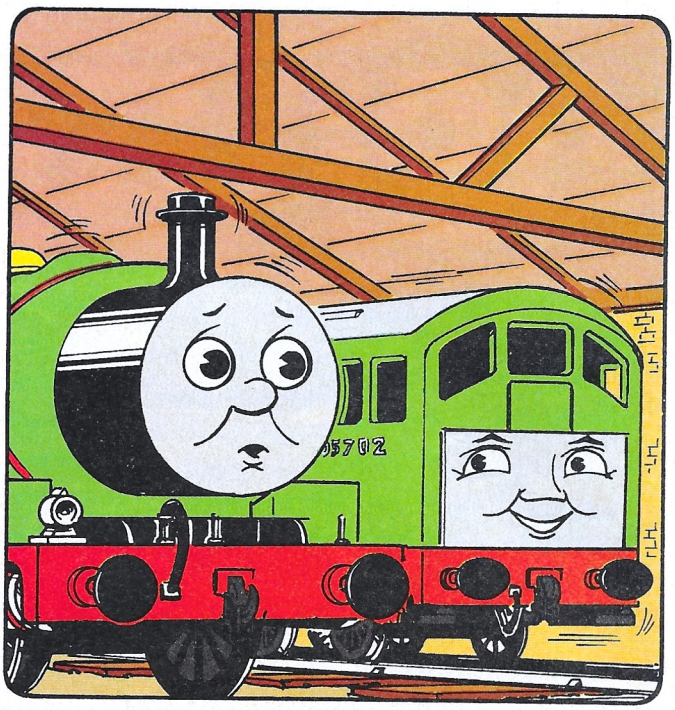
5. Next morning, as Percy set off with another goods train, he could hardly believe his eyes. As he neared a disused airfield he saw some brightly coloured sails.



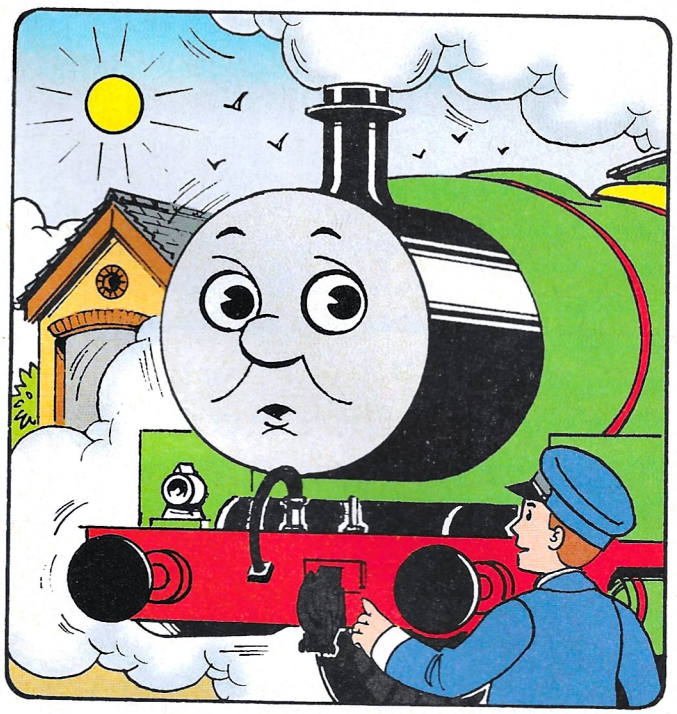
6. Very soon, Percy had a better view while he waited at a signal until the line ahead was clear. "Yachts!" Percy gasped. "They're racing on land!"



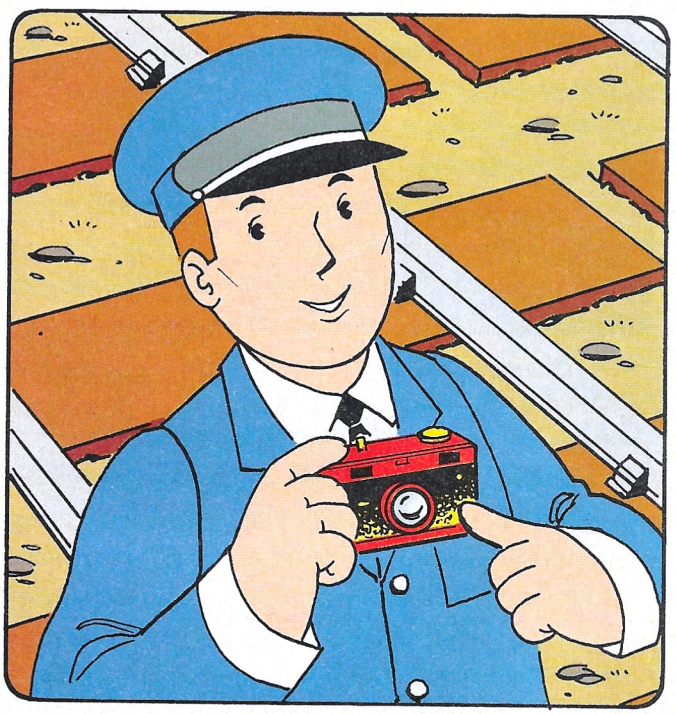
7. "That's right!" called his driver. "Those special land yachts run on wheels!" Percy watched excitedly as the unusual yachts sped along, blown by the wind.



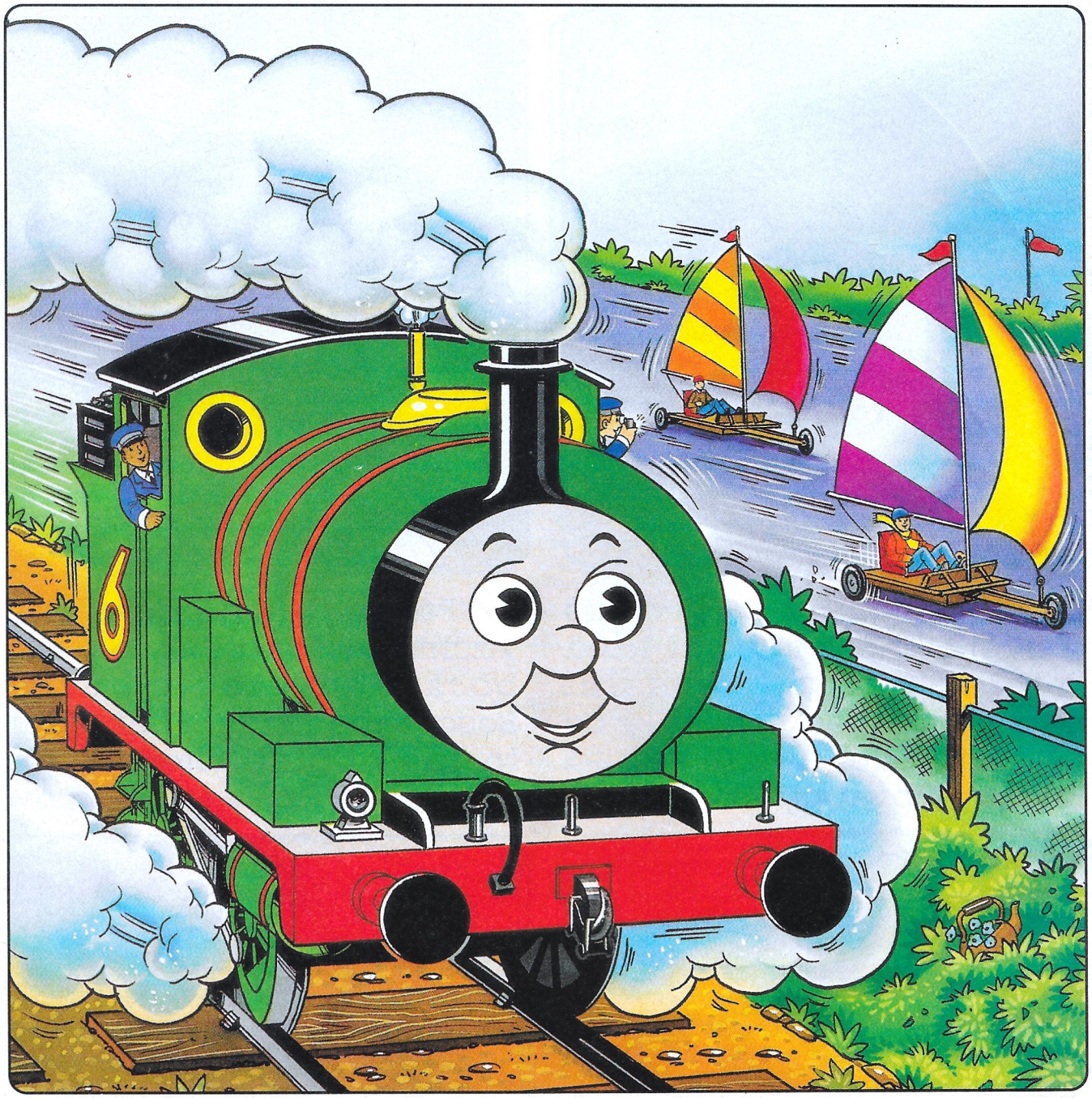
8. Percy whistled to the yachtsmen and they waved back. "Just wait till I tell Boco," said Percy. That night in the engine shed, Boco listened to Percy's story.



9. "Whoever heard of such a thing!" laughed Boco. "Stop teasing!" In the morning, Percy told his driver that Boco would not believe him about the land yachts.



10. "I thought that might happen!" said the driver. "Don't worry, Percy. If those yachts are there today, I'll photograph them with my camera!"



11. "What a good idea!" cried Percy, setting off eagerly with more supplies for the building site. He could hardly wait to reach the airfield again. Sure enough, there were the land yachts. As Percy went slowly over some points, the land yachts rolled silently closer and the yachtsmen shouted hello.

12. "Pip! Peep!" whistled Percy, getting up steam. The land yachts sped along beside him. "They want a race!" puffed Percy as the yachts chased him to the end of the airfield. His driver took a photograph. Imagine how proud Percy felt when it was pinned up in the engine shed later for an amazed Boco to see.

THE END!

In our next issue: Thomas and the Pier train!

Competition!

Our 1st prize winner will receive a single size Thomas Bed (2' 6" x 6' 3" mattress not supplied.) The cabin end is 48in. high. The Thomas Bed comes flat-packed. It is partly assembled and the remainder is simple to put together with full instructions and all fittings supplied.

Two second prize winners will receive a Thomas Bedhead (to fit standard 3' divan). The Bedhead comes to you in a single flat box with only the two brackets to attach. (All fittings supplied.)

For further information on these products: please contact *Joshua Jones Ltd, 1F Bailie Gate, Sturminster Marshall, Wimborne, Dorset or telephone 0258 858470.*

How to enter:

Simply answer the following question:

Bill is a Saddle-tank engine and he has a twin! What is the name of Bill's twin engine?

Send your answer on a postcard with your name, age and address to: *Joshua Jones Thomas Bed Competition, Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends, Marvel Comics, 13-15 Arundel St, London WC2R 3DX by July 1st 1994.*

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COMPETITION RULES:
This competition is open to all readers other than employees and their families of Joshua Jones Ltd, Britt Allcroft (Thomas) Ltd, William Heinemann Ltd. and Marvel Comics Ltd. The first 3 correct entries to be drawn will win the allocated prizes. The Editor's decision is final and no correspondence shall be entered into. No responsibility can be taken for entries lost or damaged in the post. All entrants are bound by the rules.

Huffing and Puffing!

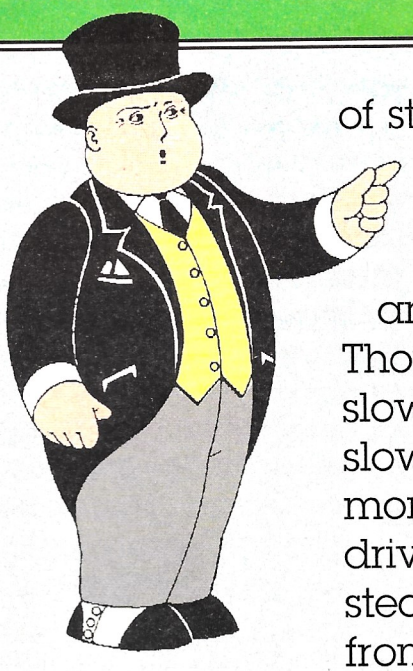
The Fat Controller had arranged for some schoolchildren to visit Wellsworth Station and learn how it was run. They would be shown inside the ticket office, lost property office and even the Stationmaster's office. The station was being swept and painted to look its very best.

Thomas was excited because he had been chosen to take the Fat Controller to meet the children. On the big day, Thomas was washed and polished, before being coupled to Annie and Clarabel. Then he waited proudly at the Main Station platform to pick up the Fat Controller

"Off we go, Thomas," he called, "right on time!"

Meanwhile, at Wellsworth Station, the Stationmaster and ticket collector had hung up a banner to welcome the children. There were balloons too, with a picture of Thomas on each one. But suddenly, the string holding the banner broke so it flapped about in the breeze. The Stationmaster hurried to fetch some steps, to fix it.

All was not going well with Thomas, either. Strangely, he began to run out of steam.



The Fat Controller

However much he huffed and puffed, Thomas went slower and slower. Next moment, his driver spotted steam gushing from a leaking valve. To make matters worse, there was a hill ahead and Thomas could not get up it.

When the Fat Controller heard what was wrong, he looked at his watch and frowned.

"If we send for another engine to give Thomas a push, I'll be late getting to Wellsworth Station," he said.

"Let me back up and take a run at the hill, sir," said Thomas, bravely.

"It's worth a try," agreed the Fat Controller. Thomas's fireman shovelled more coal into the firebox to give Thomas as much steam as possible. Hissing loudly from the faulty valve, the little tank engine began to roll forwards again. He thought he

would burst his boiler.

"I can do it! I can do it!" he gasped.

How pleased Thomas felt when he reached the top of the hill. From there, the track sloped down towards Wellsworth Station, so the going was much easier.

"Well done, Thomas!" said the Fat Controller as they arrived. "For a moment, I thought you had run out of puff!" Now the banner was back in place and the children were due any minute.

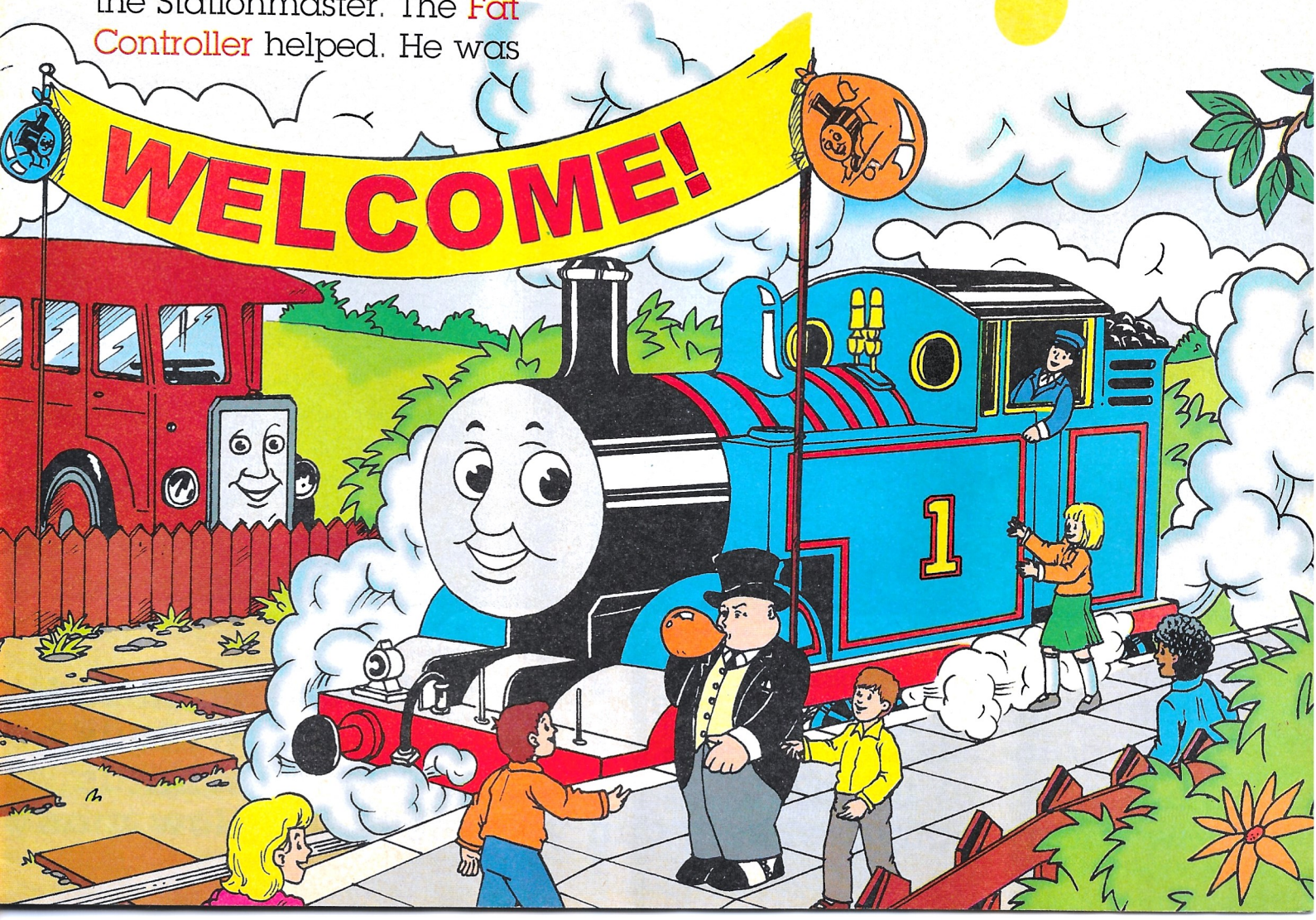
"We just have to finish blowing up the balloons," said the Stationmaster. The Fat Controller helped. He was wearily blowing air into the last balloon when he saw the excited children and their teacher arriving on Bertie the Bus.

The Fat Controller's face was very red. He took some deep breaths before giving the balloon one final, big blow. Then he tied the end and everything was ready, at last.

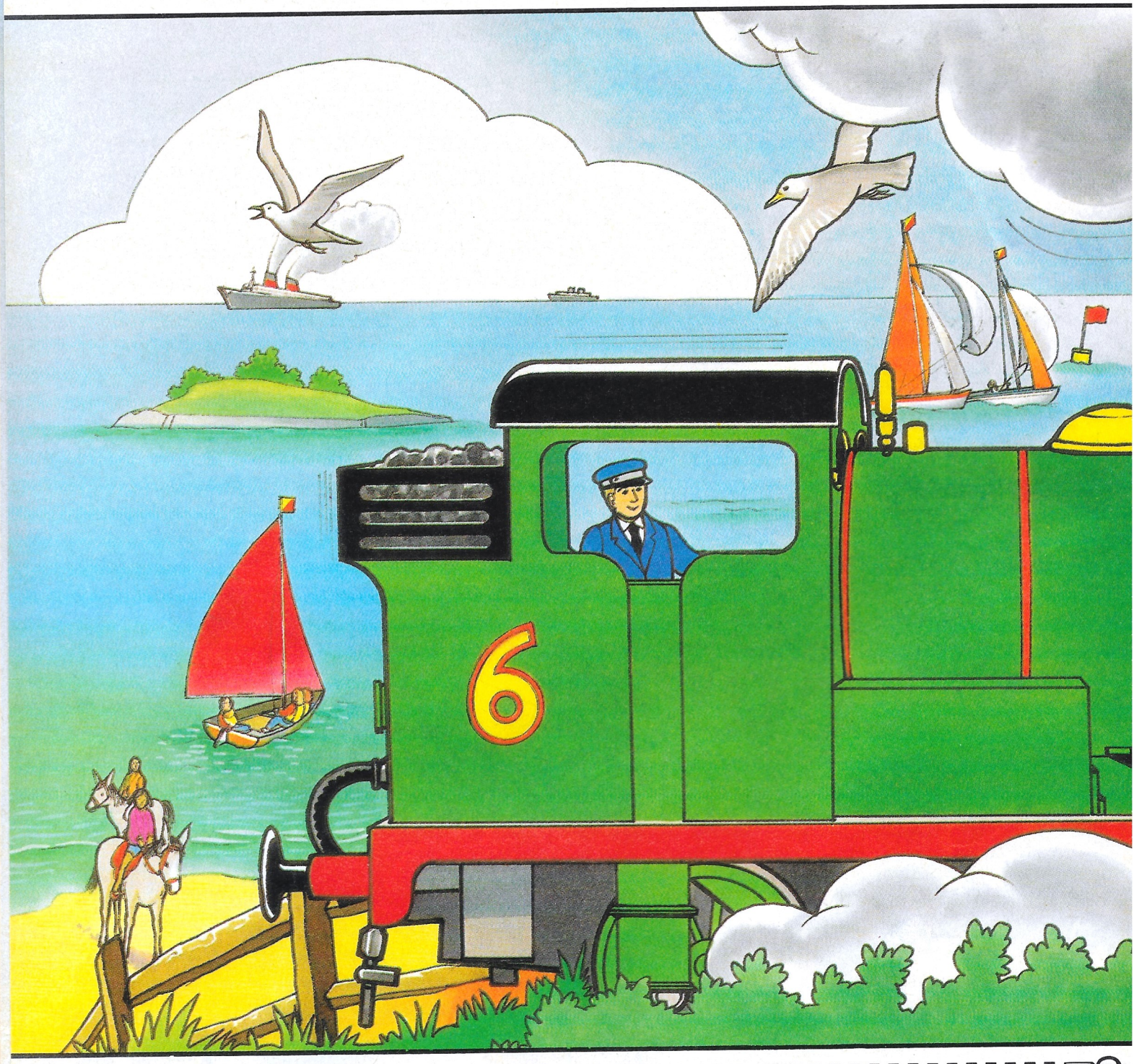
"You sounded like a steam engine, sir!" said Thomas, in surprise.

"That's because I nearly ran out of puff, too!" the Fat Controller laughed.

THE END!



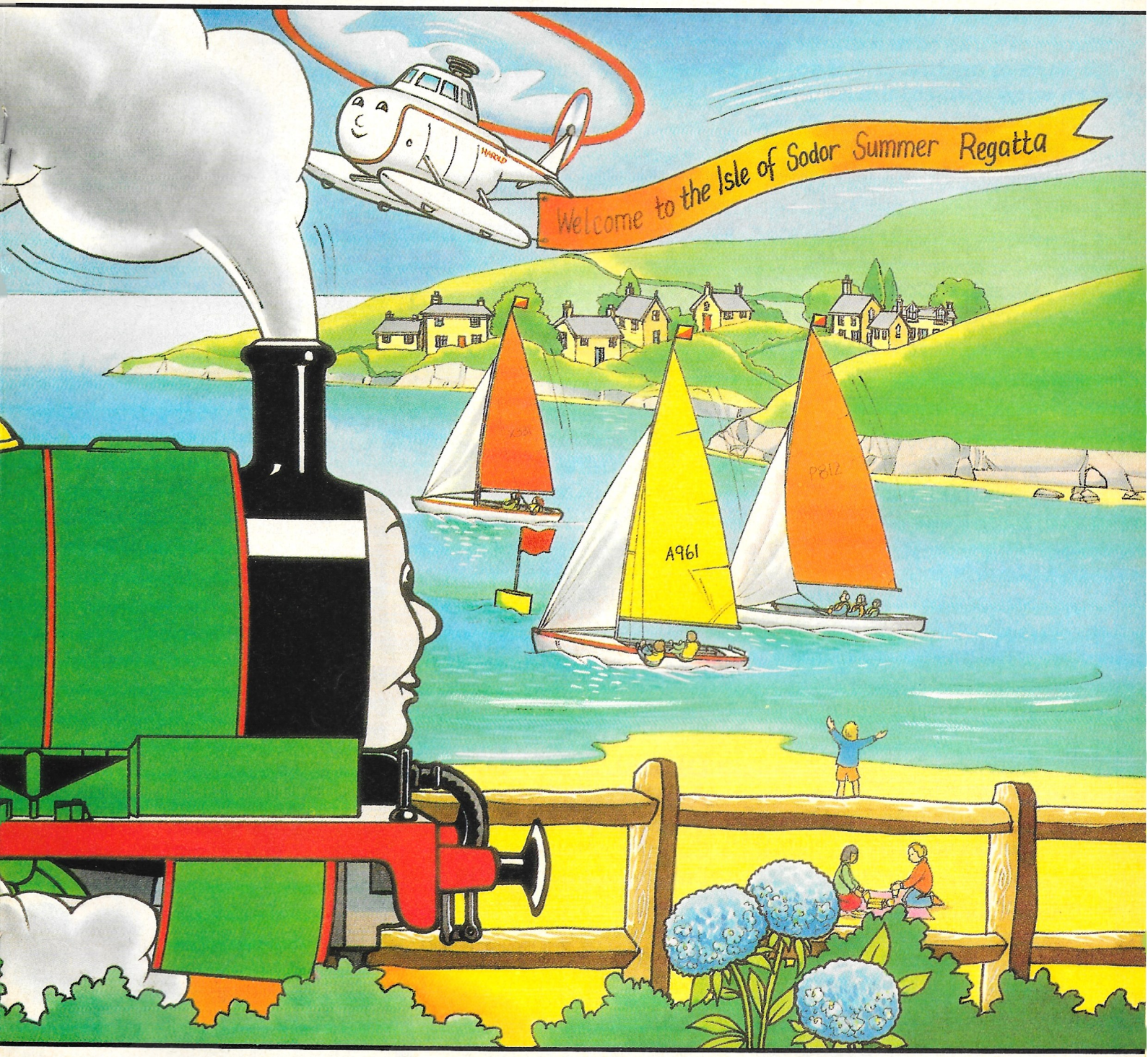
Past the sum



Which engine can you see?
What colour is he?
What number is he?
How many pony-trekkers can you see?

Point to H
What is h
What is w
How man

mer regatta!



old the Helicopter!
pulling?
tten on the banner?
yachts can you count?

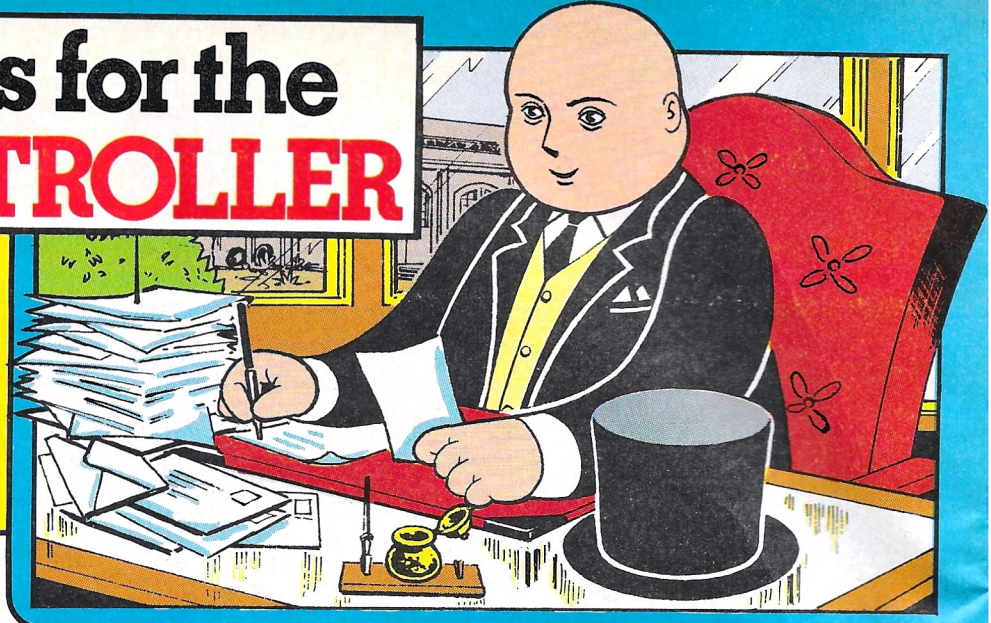
Note for parents

This page is designed to form part of a colourful mural for your child's bedroom, playgroup or classroom. After you have finished reading the comic with your child, remove this part of the centrespread by cutting along the dotted line. There will be a 'mural page' in every issue of **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends.** Why not collect each one and watch Thomas and his friends puff all round the room!

In our next issue: Kite flying!

Your letters for the FAT CONTROLLER

Have you got an amusing story to tell? Do you have a question you would like to ask about Thomas or his friends? If so, then write to me at the address shown below! I would be so very pleased to hear from you!



STAR LETTER

Dear Fat Controller,
I like Gordon the best because he runs very fast along his rails. When he takes the Express, he is always very happy. But, why is it only Gordon who pulls the Express?
Love from **Paul Hester**, aged 5.

Gordon is the most senior member of the railway family and he is the fastest and most powerful engine too! He is therefore most suited to being an Express Engine. The Express needs to reach its destination much quicker than the average steam engine.

The sender of any letter that is printed as our **STAR LETTER** will win some splendid **Thomas Pre-school** toys courtesy of *ERTL (UK) Ltd.*

ENGINE DRIVER!

Dear Fat Controller,
I really like reading all your stories. Have you ever driven a train?
Love from **Grant Birkett**, aged 3.

Yes! Very recently! I became Thomas's "Special Driver" when his regular driver became ill during an important journey. I enjoyed driving Thomas again and I had a really splendid time at the party afterwards.

DIESEL'S ACCIDENT!

Dear Fat Controller,
Could you tell me how Diesel got back on the line when he was derailed in your "Clockwork Engines" story?
Love from **Daniel Malcolm**, aged 3.

Diesel was lifted back on to the railway track by a crane wagon operated by special Engineers. They also had to repair some points on the line which had been damaged by the accident!

BIRTHDAYS!

Special greetings to...
Aisha Mahmood, Christopher Munro, Bradley Dickenson, Paul Buzza, Paul Lee Dunn, Lynne Drew, Peter Meaby, David Evans, Allan Ikin, Kevin Nash, Liam Riley, Paul Buzza, Ross Faulkner, Luke James Brennan, Grant Birkett, Ryan Weeks, Richard Keenan, Charlene Ann Jennings and Abigail Axtons.

If you would like a birthday mention printed in one of our future issues, please send details on a post-card at least **nine weeks** in advance.

Yours,
Sir Topham Hatt.
The Fat Controller!

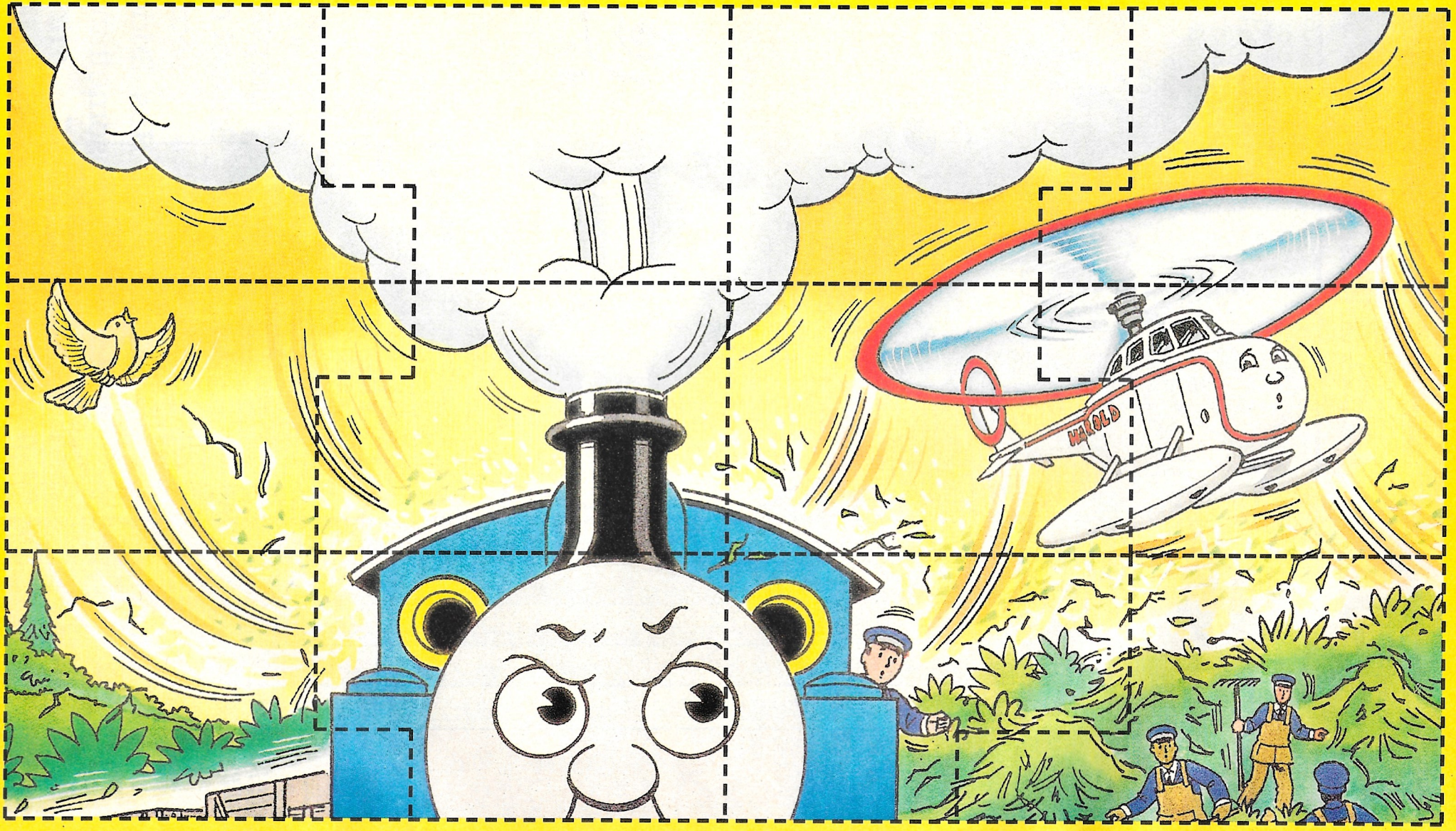
Send your letters to:

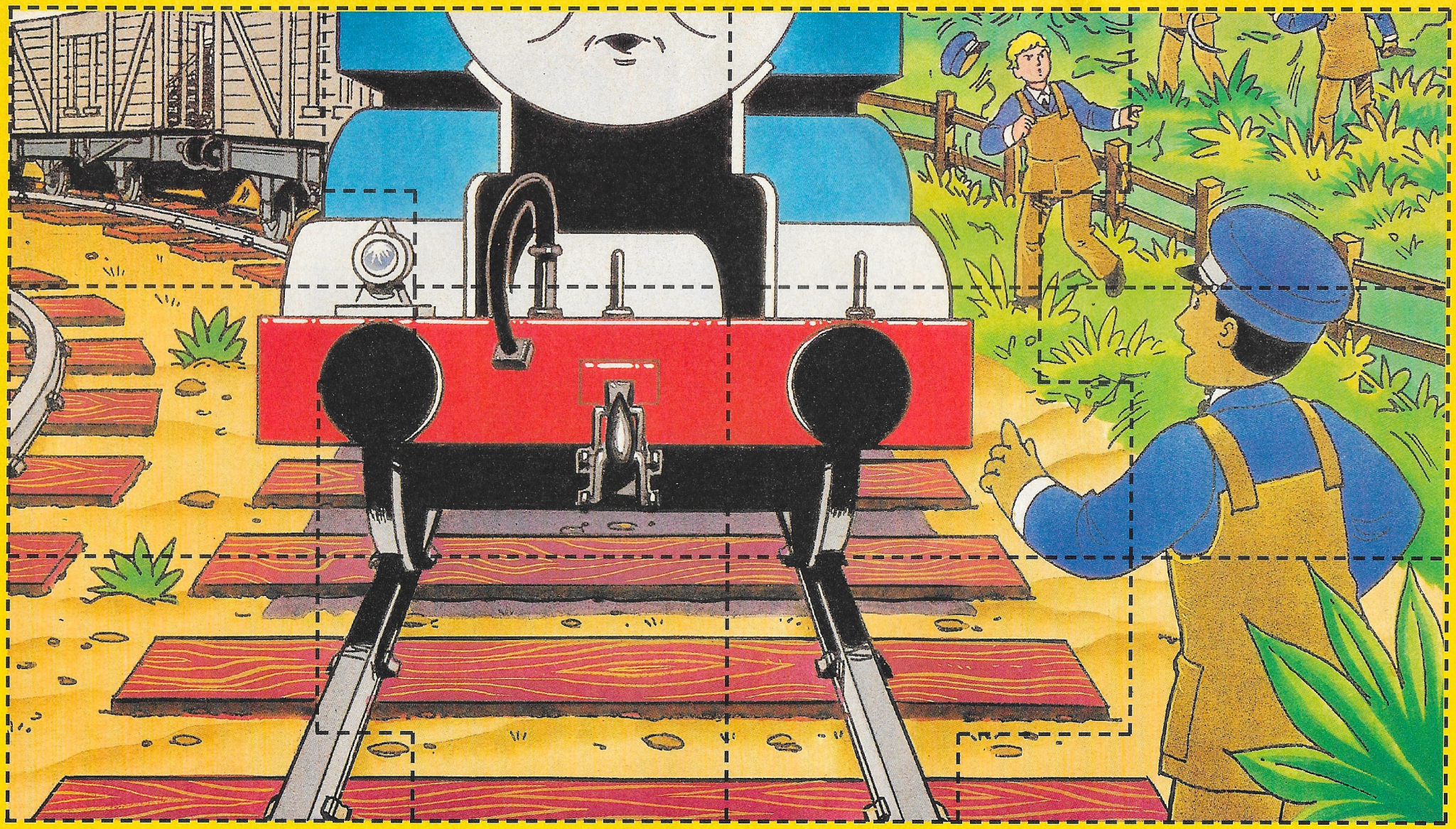
The Fat Controller
The Island of Sodor
c/o Marvel Comics Ltd
13/15 Arundel Street
London WC2.

JOIN THE DOTS!

Stephen and Bridget are at the seaside, Has Bridget found something good to ride?

Make a Thomas Jigsaw!





How to make your jigsaw:

A. Stick these pages on to thin card with some glue and leave to dry.

B. Ask a grown-up to cut around the lines which make up the jigsaw shapes.

A FREE NOTEBOOK AND PENCIL!

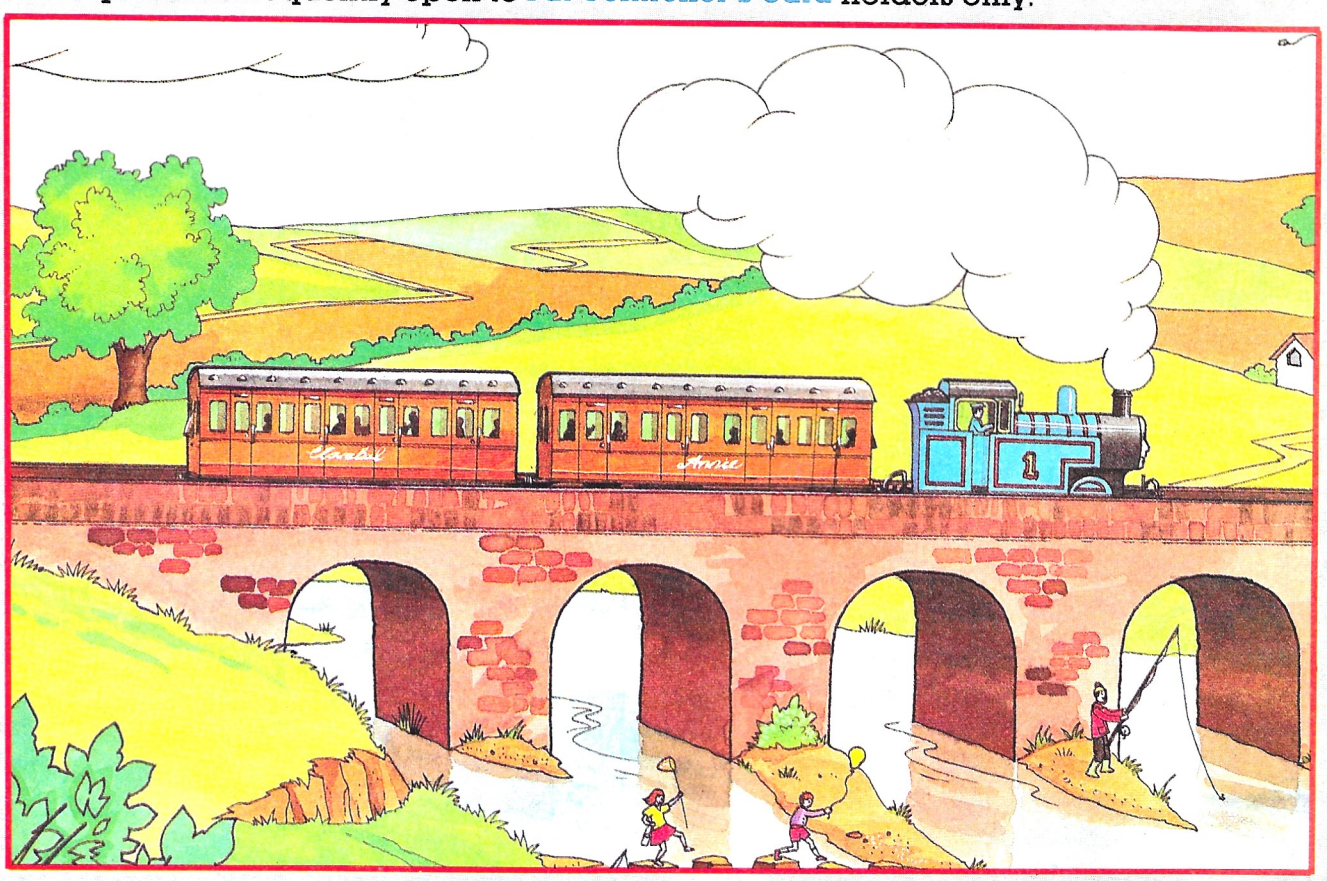
Give your child a great present by subscribing to Thomas's very own magazine ...

NEW 6-MONTHLY SUBSCRIPTION!

For just £18.00 (£35.00 overseas), your child will be sent **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends** every fortnight for a whole year – or for **£10.00 (£18.00** overseas) you can subscribe for **6 months.**

EXTRA WITH SUBSCRIPTION

Your child will receive a FREE Thomas the Tank Engine Notebook and Pencil plus their own personalised **Fat Controller's Card** enabling them to enter special offers and competitions frequently open to **Fat Controller's Card** holders only.



Please send **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends** for:

☐ **1 year** for **£18.00 (£35** overseas) 17H
☐ **6 months** for **£10.00 (£18.00** (overseas) 18M

Child's name .....
Address .....
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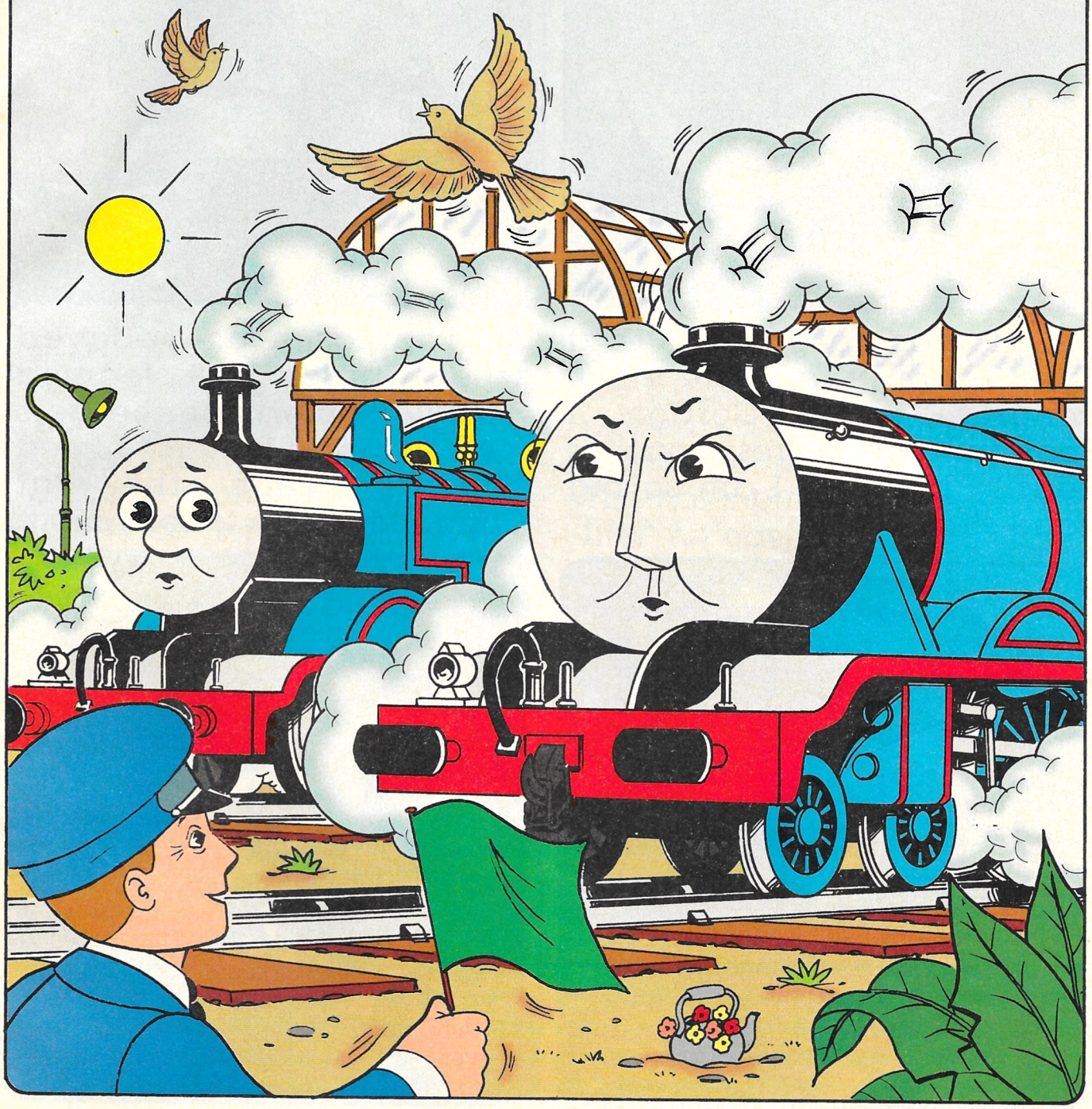
Date of birth .....
Postcode .....

☐ I enclose a cheque/postal order for £____ made payable to Marvel Comics Ltd.
☐ Please charge my ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard with £____
Card number ☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐
Expiry date.....
Cardholder's signature .....
Parent's/donor's name Mr/Mrs/Ms .....
Address (if different from child's) .....
.....
..... Postcode .....

Please send to: **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends Subscriptions, PO Box 500, Leicester, LE99 0AA.**

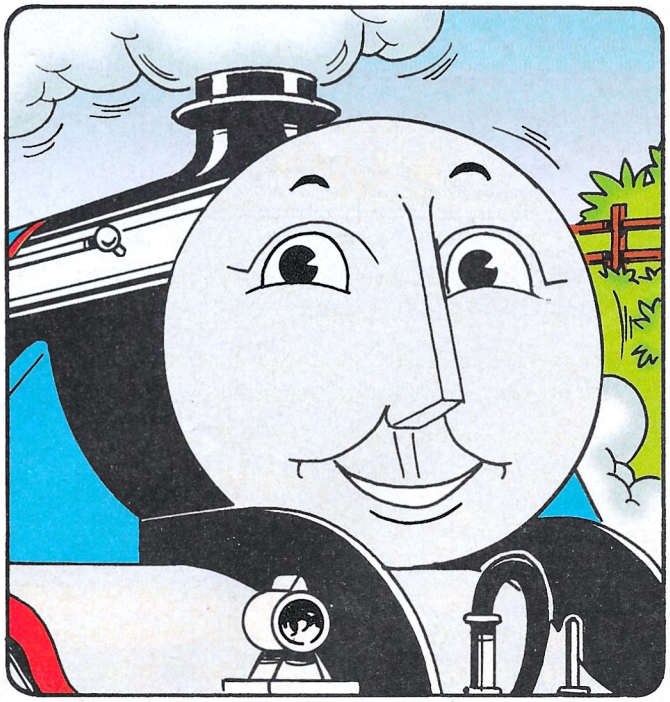
(Tick boxes where appropriate)

THE STRONG ENGINE!

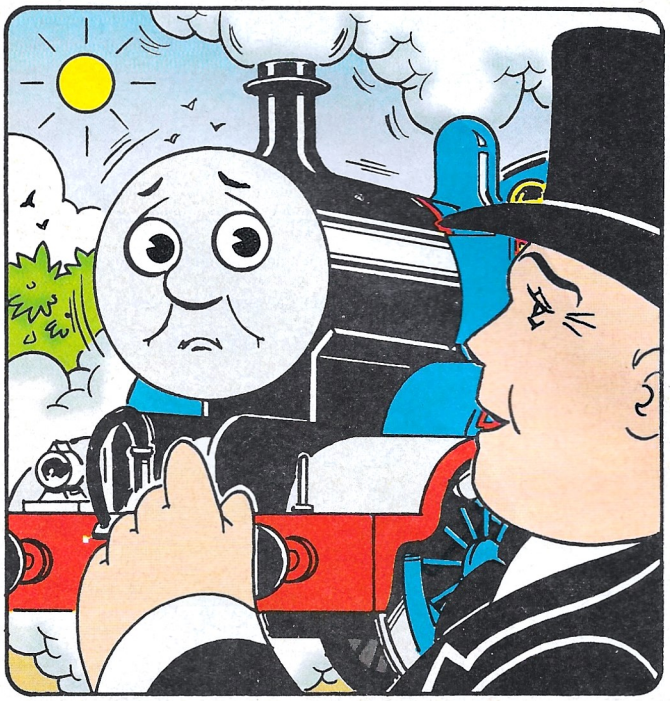


1. One morning, Gordon waited in the Main Station yard to take the Express. Thomas had to bring the coaches and Gordon was getting impatient.

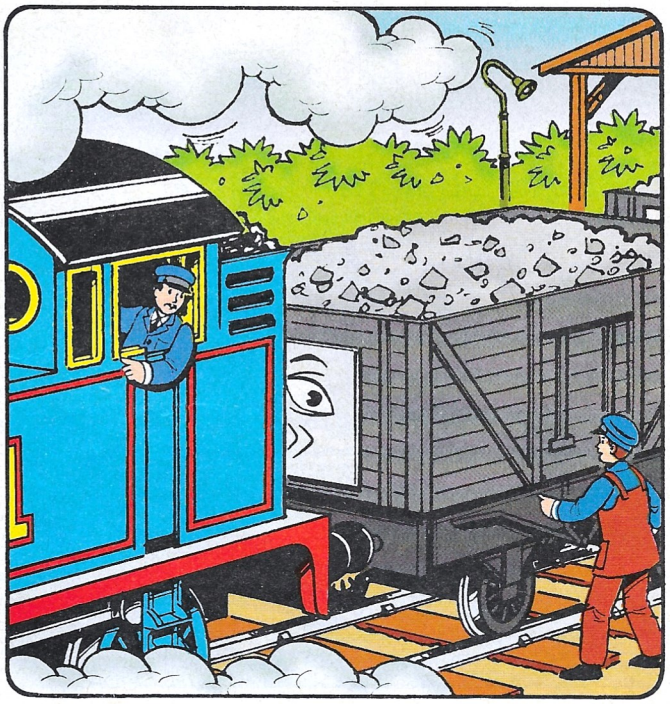
2. "Do hurry up, Thomas!" he snorted. "I can't be late. Pulling the Express is the most important job of all!" "All right! I'm coming!" puffed Thomas.



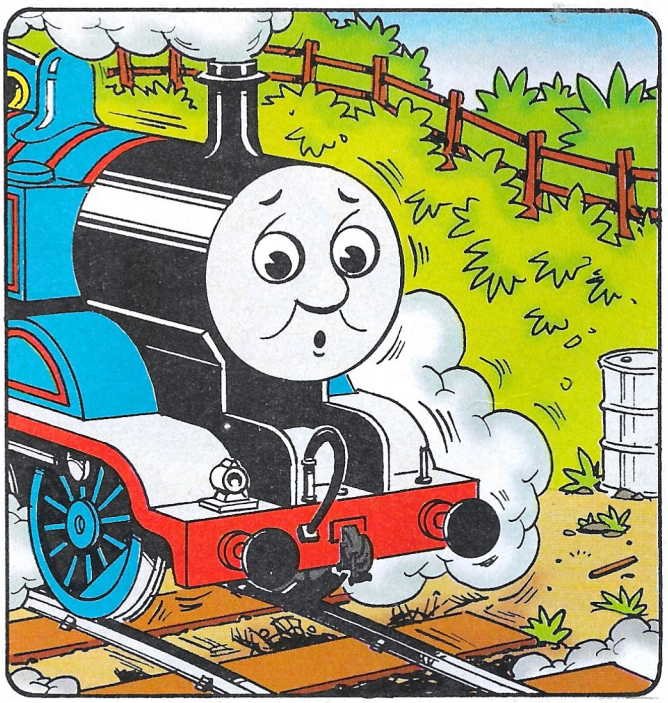
3. "I was forgetting that you're only a little tank engine," sniffed Gordon. "I can pull the Express coaches easily because I am so big and strong!"



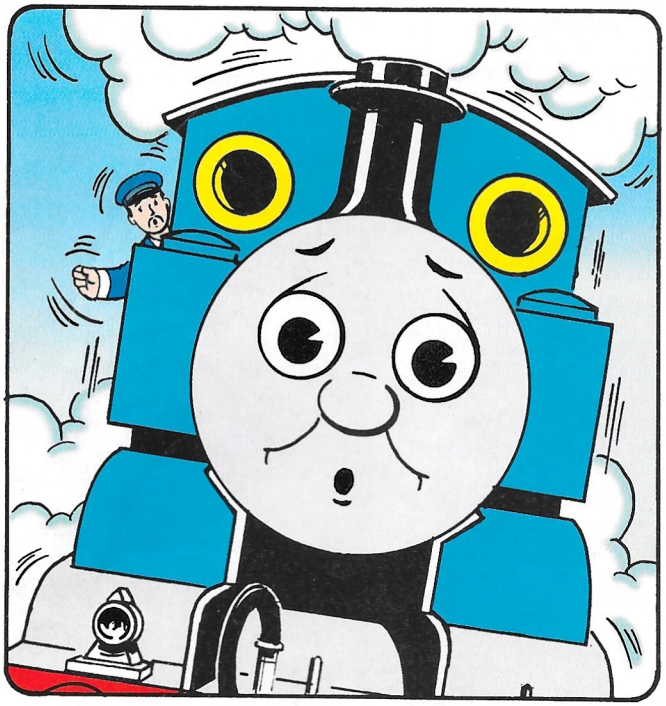
4. Thomas was relieved when Gordon had steamed away. "Sometimes, he gets too big for his buffers!" fumed Thomas. Then the Fat Controller came to see him.



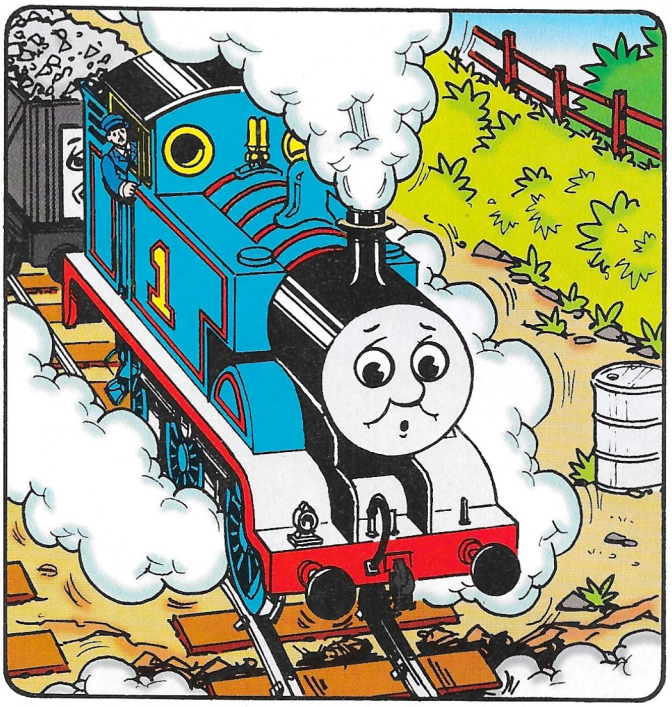
5. Thomas was sent to collect some trucks full of gravel, stored along a quiet loop-line. He soon puffed into a siding and was coupled to the trucks.



6. As Thomas rolled slowly forwards, he suddenly felt the rails wobble under his wheels. "What's happening?" he cried. There was a loud rumble and a cloud of dust.



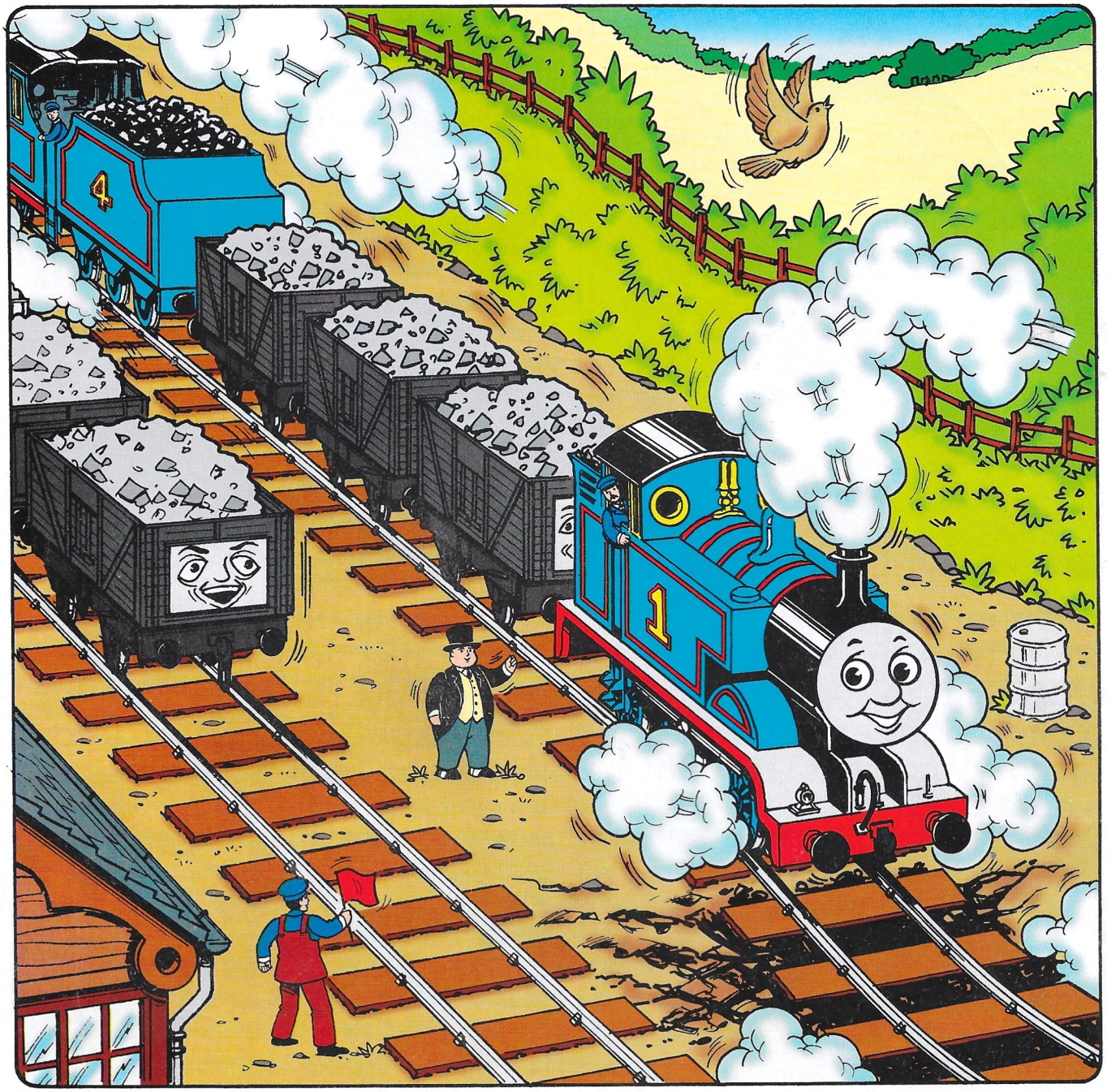
7. Thomas pulled up just in time as the ground gave way right in front of him. He rocked dangerously and, for a scary moment, thought he would be derailed.



8. Thomas stared in horror at a huge hole that had appeared beneath the line. The edge was almost under Thomas's buffers. "Smoke and fire!" he gasped.

9. "This line runs over an old mine," called Thomas's driver. "The ground must have fallen into a disused tunnel!" "That means I could fall in, too!" shouted Thomas.

10. The rails ahead hung over the hole. Thomas felt his wheels slip slightly. "If I try to move, the hole may get bigger!" he said, nervously. "I'm trapped!"



11. Thomas's fireman ran off to get help. "Please hurry!" called Thomas. He was very relieved when Gordon arrived shortly with the Fat Controller. Uncoupled from the Express coaches, the mighty engine backed up towards the last of Thomas's long line of trucks. "I'll save you, Thomas!" called Gordon.

12. Gordon powerfully began to huff, puff and pull Thomas back away from the hole. The magnificent rescue was all over in a few moments and Thomas was safe again! "Well done, Gordon!" called the Fat Controller. "I'm glad Gordon's a big, strong engine, after all!" said Thomas. **THE END!**

In our next issue: The tall man!